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## Letter from William F. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1855 February 1

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### Recommended Citation

"Letter from William F. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1855 February 1" (1855). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1848.

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New York - Feb. 1. 1855-

My Dear Uncle;

I have at length obtained definite information in regard to the Benton process - and from a source that is most reliable - The process is only practicable for certain ores - and the expense is too great for the yield - They applied to a gentleman (from whom I got my information through a friend) to investigate the matter and give them a certificate favourable to the plan - that they might publish it - and thus be able to sell some more Patent Rights - This gentleman investigated the matter and told them that he could not conscientiously give them a recommendation - and consequently refused them entirely - They have never written to me on the subject - although I gave them my address - and they promised to write - so I am now satisfied from the most reliable information that can be had that the process is not practicable and that it ought not to be entertained - So ends that matter - I trust that you are getting along better with your furnaces than when I saw you in New York - you seem to have met with a combination of adverse circumstances - so far as the money market is concerned - matters here are quite easy to what they were - and it is generally thought will continue to

grow more so - Six months paper is selling in the  
street at 9. p. c. and the Banks are discounting very  
freely - Pittsburgh seems to have suffered very much  
in money matters - I observe a number of her Banking  
Houses have suspended - I hope you have not  
lost by any of them - I think you are right in not  
running Blair any longer - and I am disposed to  
think the more you concentrate matters at home  
and develop the resources of your own place, the  
more advantageous you will find it - at all, having  
I suppose you have immense capabilities - all they  
want is the intelligence and means to bring them  
out - I was glad you met Mr & Mrs Wilmerding  
in Philad<sup>a</sup> - she is better since her return -  
I hope you will write me and let me know how  
you are getting along at the Germans and what  
Cora is doing now - The rivers being up in the  
West must have made the trade somewhat better  
She is well and joins me in much love to  
yourself, Aunt Hetty & Sylvia - I have from  
Baker yesterday - she is better and gaining strength  
Write my best wishes and hoping to hear from  
you soon

I remain

Yours very affectionately  
Wm. F. Claiborne -